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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/613,512

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Peter Sheehan

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EXAMINER

DANG, HUNG Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/613,512

Applicant(s)

SHEEHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Hung Q. Dang

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 and in further view of Batra et al U.S. Patent 6,317,061.

Regarding claim 1, Asari et al. teaches a computer interface system comprising:

a hub (Figure 1, unit 2) connected to said computer (Figure 1, unit 3) and configured to communicate wirelessly with at least two peripheral devices;

a wireless mouse (Figure 1, unit M) for wirelessly communicating with said hub;

a wireless keyboard (Figure 1, unit 12) for wirelessly communicating with said hub, said wireless keyboard having an alphanumeric keyboard but no separate number pad; and

a wireless numeric keyboard (already included in keyboard 12) for wirelessly communicating with said hub, said wireless numeric keyboard including a number pad.

However, Asari et al. does not teach a separate wireless numeric keyboard having a display.

Smith et al., in the same field of endeavor, teaches a keyboard having a numerical key section (See Figure 3, the right most section of the drawing), which has

a display (Figure 3, unit 25) for displaying number when said numeric key section is set in calculator mode. Even though, neither Asari et al. nor Smith et al. teach a **separate** numeric keypad, however, one skilled in the art would recognize that separately or integrally equipping a numeric keypad with a alphabetical keyboard can easily derived to suit user's preference and convenience, as evidenced by Batra et al. (Figure 4B, keyboards 12 and 14 can be separately or integrally put together).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a separate numeric keypad having a display to the computer system disclosed by Asari et al., as evidenced by Smith et al. and Batra et al., in order to suit the preference of the user, as already explained above.

Regarding claim 2, the numeric keyboard section disclosed by Smith also includes two modes of operation, a first mode as a number pad and a second mode as a calculator (Figure 3, unit 26a indicates operational mode).

Regarding claim 3, even though neither Asari et al. nor Smith et al. specifically mention the navigation function of said numeric keyboard (such as buttons 4, 8, 6, 2 are directional arrows for left, up, right, and down, respectively), however, such navigation function has been conventionally equipped in keyboards. Therefore, by conventionality, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide such navigation function to the keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of Smith et al.

Regarding claim 7, Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. does not teach said hub being connected to a USB port of said computer. However, one skilled in the art would recognize that computers have been conventionally equipped with USB port(s) for

connecting external devices. Therefore, by conventionality, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a connection between the hub and the computer disclosed by Asari et al. by a USB port.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 in further view of applicant's prior art admission.

Regarding claim 6, Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. teaches a system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said wireless mouse, wireless keyboard all communicate using **Bluetooth technology** with said hub.

Applicant's prior admission on page 1 paragraph [0003] discloses the usage of Bluetooth technology between keyboard/mouse and a wireless hub by Microsoft.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Bluetooth wireless communication between the wireless mouse/keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of Smith et al., as evidenced by applicant's prior art admission, in order to wirelessly establish communication between said mouse/keyboard and hub.

4. Claims 4, 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 in view of Chen US 2002/0190955.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 8 and 9, Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. teaches a system as claimed in claim 4, except a media button on one of said wireless keyboards configured to launch a media application.

Chen, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a keyboard, which includes media button(s) (See figure 3, the keys located on the top of the keyboard are hot keys, which are media keys for playing music, volume control) configured for launching a media application.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide media button(s) (or hot keys) to the keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of Smith et al., as evidenced by Chen, in order to execute special functions.

Claim 10 is rejected for the same reasons as the combination of claims 1 and 4-6).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3069. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (571) 272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hung Q. Dang
11/30/2005
H.D.



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